

MINUTES
INDIANA BOARD OF FIREFIGHTING
PERSONNEL STANDARDS AND EDUCATION MEETING

February 24, 2014 6 pm

Martinsville FD
160 W Morgan St
Martinsville IN 46151
765-342-2343

A MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 6PM

Introduction of new Board members:

Chris Johnson, Civilian

Master degrees in Physics, scientist, worked for Fed Gov., spent last 20 years in insurance, one of the largest insurance companies in the country, and have worked with many fire departments in Indiana.

Eric Gentry, Full time firefighter

In fire service for 14 years.

Eric Dreiman, Full time firefighter

Lt. on IFD. He has been involved in fire service for 23 years.

B. ROLL CALL

Present

Greg Wyant

Burke Jones

Rob Lund

James Greeson

John C Smith

Eric Gentry

Eric Dreiman

Chris Johnson

Absent

Arvin Copeland

Tom Hanify

- C. Approval of January 13th minutes as submitted; James Greeson made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted. Rob Lund seconded. Motion passed.

D VARIANCE REQUESTS

1. Capt. Doug Lutes, Blue River Career Program, requested a variance for the following students to be allowed to test for Mandatory, Hazmat Awareness, Hazmat Operations, Firefighter I/II at the age of 17.

Bradley Coleman, Trevor Combs, Adam Slinker, ZachTurner and Quinton Weir.

Staff recommends approval.

James Greeson made a motion to approve. Rob Lund seconded. Motion passed.

2. Brec Musselman requested a variance for oral testing. He has submitted a physician statement that he is dyslexic. He has a 2.3 GPA from Hamilton Southeastern High School in Fishers. Brec has had tutoring to get him to the reading level that he is at now. With accommodations, Brec performs capably. If this request is denied, Brec wishes at this time to file an appeal for administrative review of the decision. Brec has taken the test and failed. He did pass all skills with no problems. Jeff Hayes, the Instructor states that he had no problems whatsoever in passing the skills and Brec is very qualified.

Staff recommends denial. It was determined by the board when this was repealed that a Firefighter needed to be able to read under pressure.

James Greeson made a motion to approve staff recommendation to start the discussion. Chris Johnson seconded.

Brec spoke about wanting to be a Firefighter from the age of 11. Larry Southard spoke, his brother was dyslexic, and he was a truck driver and never had any issues due to the condition. Larry Southard stated that after many years as a firefighter, he has never had to read at a fire scene.

Mara Snyder asked what rule the variance was for: Greg Wyant stated that he was asking for accommodation more than a variance from a rule. The Board can waive their rules, but there is no process for accommodating an individual.

Brec is not asking for a variance from 3 hours, or the 70% passing score.

Jeff Hayes spoke about when he was on the Board, and this rule was repealed, it was stated that if someone wanted an oral test, they could request a variance. What has changed since that time? This is all Brec is asking for. A variance to allow him to have the test read to him. Brec is not asking for a specific individual to read the test, he just needs someone qualified to read it to him.

Chris Johnson stated that the variance would be for 655 IAC 1-1-12 (12). The proctor shall not discuss any test question or possible answer thereto with any student taking the examination.

Mrs. Musselman read a letter to the Board dealing with legal issues involving dyslexia.

Steve Noll spoke about an individual at their fire dept. that had this issue, and at the oral test, before they completed the question, the individual had the answer. I think we should give these individuals a chance.

Greg Wyant stated that he has spent a great deal of time investigating this. At the entry level, this is a reasonable request. I also think that when you get to a higher level, this is a different matter. This was repealed in 2008, I was not a part of that, and I think we need more input on this issue. Our job is to grant or deny variances and to make sure we are doing our due diligence, and we need time to work through all the issues. A Professional test reader might impose a financial imposition on the individual. J. Everett Light has someone on staff that can accommodate the request.

Mara Snyder suggested that the Marshal get an unofficial statement from the attorney General's office about this issue.

James Greeson and Chris Johnson withdrew their deny motion. James Greeson made a motion to approve an oral test for Brec Musselman for the following tests only; Mandatory, Hazardous Material Awareness, Hazardous Materials Operations, Firefighter I/II and Technical Rescue Awareness. His is restricted to the 3 hour timeframe, and the minimum 70% on the written exam. He must contact the state for proctor information.

3. Travis Theurer requested a variance for Instructor II/III pending passing the instructor reciprocity test. He currently holds a valid Indiana teachers license.

Staff recommends denial. He does not hold Instructor I.

Burke Jones made a motion to approve staff recommendation. John Smith seconded. Motion passed.

4. Jason Kelly requested a variance for Safety Officer. This was tabled at the January meeting. There was confusion as to what classes he had attended and if it met the standard.

After talking with Jason, and reviewing his transcripts staff feels that he has met both the safety and health requirements for the certification.

James Greeson made a motion to approve staff recommendation. Eric Gentry seconded. Motion passed.

5. James Warren requested variances for Instructor I, Fire Officer I, and Safety Officer. Classes were offered out of order in 2009 and he passed all exams, but no certification was issued due to prerequisites. He is in promotional process now and would like certification issued.

Staff has no recommendation. James is in attendance.

Greg Wyant asked about the Instructor I. John Smith made a motion to approve, pending his passing his instructor I tests. This does include the written and practical skills tests. Burke Jones seconded. Motion passed.

Manuela Johnson stated that NFPA states that he must hold, yet Fire Officer I does not expire, so what happens when instructor I does expire. Just a thought.

John Shafer asked what happens to the people that have dropped instructor I. A lot of people did drop this and this could affect people's jobs.

Greg Wyant stated that this is a point for consideration.

Jeff Hayes spoke up as a character witness; James helps J Everett Light in classes to evaluate skills.

6. Kevin Gnivechi requested a variance for Fire Officer Strategy and Tactics. He has the Blue Card certification and wants reciprocity for FOST due to this.

Staff recommends denial. June 2012 the Board denied these. The Board asked the Blue Card representative to attend a Board meeting and explain what was involved and how it met our requirements. No representative attended. This was kept on the agenda for 6 months and no representative appeared in front of the Board.

Eric Dreiman made a motion to accept staff recommendation. Burke Jones seconded. Motion passed.

Greg Wyant stated that he was at that meeting. The Blue Card program concerns were mainly about NIMS and terminology. I was looking at a good discussion on this but it never happened. No one appeared to talk about it.

Kevin is on the webinar, he logged on under someone else's name. Kevin talked about the Blue Card. John Buckman asked about the curriculum for Blue Card.could not hear Kevin on the phone. Greg Wyant stated that it would be just as easy for Kevin to take the skills and written exam for the certification. Chris Johnson stated that this should not be tabled until the meeting between Blue Card and staff. If Blue card is considered equivalent, there will be a lot of people this will affect. This is up to the individual to show how they are compatible. Greg Wyant stated that Kevin said there were others involved so we would look at this and Kevin can resubmit next meeting with all of them and we will manage the issue at that time. John Buckman will be in that area and they can discuss the Blue Card issue with him at that time. He will then bring a report back to the Board.

E. STATE FIRE MARSHAL, JAMES GREESON

Welcome the new members.

We had the final leadership conference and they were all well attended. They were full classes. Anyone that would like to hold one next year, let me know. John Smith volunteered Huntingburg again for next year. We have good presenters. I want to thank Chief Les Markel from Decatur, Chief Richard Doyle from Lafayette, and Chief Scott Patberg from Huntingburg for hosting the events. Greg Wyant stated that he attended to represent the Board.

We are still working on the State Fire Academy for Gov Pence. We will probably have this done by April, so we will report more on this.

F DIRECTOR OF TRAINING, ARVIN COPELAND

Director Copeland was not in attendance.

G. STATE FIRE TRAINING REPORT, JOHN BUCKMAN

Stated that he will start submitting this report

1. Technical Rescue Course / online material address /
2. Legislative required training as part of a Mandatory/Firefighter I course:
 - SIDS C 16-31-2-1
 - Autism under IC 16-31-2-1
 - Driver Training IC 36-8-10.5-7(a)
 - Legal Issues IC 36-8-10.5.7(a)
 - Apparatus Familiarization IC 36-8-10.5.7(a)

These topics are not part of the publisher's curriculum. Many people forget to cover this material. There are written test questions from these topics. The instructor and student information is available at: <http://www.in.gov/dhs/3093.htm>

3. Haz Mat Awareness and Haz Mat Operations / part of the prerequisites before are strongly urging instructors through the use of the lead instructor planning template that the lead instructor blends this training and testing into the curriculum. The students need SCBA/Hose/Streams before they take the operations skills examination. This has created some challenges for Instructors who are used to going from cover to cover in one book and then starting the next book.

4. Riley Fire Protection District / online Firefighter I/II course. Board member Rob Lund will report on the idea, implementation, course progress, challenges and successes.

We bought several programs and used a free web site to design this. We are having some issues with the free web site. It crashes, exams are sometimes not there, and trying to get everyone to use this correctly, is an issue. This class is there on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and once it is recorded, the students

5. Mobile Live Fire Trainer is in D2 until 4/1/14. If you are interested in scheduling the live fire trainer for your area contact your district fire training council/coordinator. A training plan has to be developed before the arrival of the trainer. Contact Brandon Wood at brwood@dhs.in.gov for additional information.

6. Mobile Haz Mat Trainer is in Jeffersonville through 3/15/14 and then travels to D1 for technician refresher training until April 28. After that it travels to Indianapolis for a Technician class. It is available beginning after May 15th. If any FD/Haz Mat Team is interested in scheduling the mobile hazmat trainer for your FD/area contact your district fire training council/coordinator. A training plan has to be developed before the arrival of the trainer. Contact David Probo at dprobo@dhs.in.gov for additional information.

7. Rope Rescue Operations / Technician test questions have been separated. We are in the process of implementing updated written tests.

8. A group of IFD firefighters are reviewing the Vehicle Machinery Operations and Technician questions as part of the validation process. They are working to separate the ops/tech questions so we can create separate tests.

9. HMA is now online and is available through your Acadis portal.

10. TRA is available online at the following address; www.pikettraining.com each user must register on the site prior to taking the training. The guest login is no longer valid.

You can register by clicking on “register” at the top right hand portion of your login box and following the prompts.

Task Force Reports

Quality Assurance/Control / committee has met and each of the members will be doing site visits of specific courses. They will provide the lead instructor/lead evaluator with 48 hours notice of the visit.

QA/QC Task Force Members

- Deputy Chief Michael Miller, Fort Wayne Fire Department
- Battalion Chief Chris Rainbolt, New Albany Fire Department
- Deputy Chief Joel Thacker, Brownsburg Fire Territory
- Training Officer Jeff Sheets, Decatur Fire
- Chief Les Marckel, Decatur Fire
- Battalion Chief Brian Kazmierzak, Penn Township Fire
- Steve Cavaleri
- Jim Campbell, Pike Twp Fire Dept
- Jeff Hayes, Crawfordsville FD

Continuing Education Recognition Program / meeting cancelled due to weather.
Alternative Scoring Concept /

FOST / the committee have accepted using the NFA curriculum. If the instructor is an NFA approved instructor, this will allow students to achieve Board certification and if applications are submitted through our office NFA certificates.

Qualifications:

Complete the NFA course and

5 years of documented teaching of advanced courses 20 hours or more annually.

The designation of an Indiana to deliver NFA courses within the State of Indiana is delegated by the NFA to the State Fire Training Director.

Current personnel who are certified in FOST will be expected to attend the online train-the-trainer and achieve a score of 70% or higher the written examination.

FOST Task Force Members

- Eric Dreiman, Lieutenant, IFD
- John Grolich, EMS Chief (Ret.), Plymouth Fire Dept.
- Shawn Grass, Battalion Chief, IFD
- Brian Kazmierzak, Div. Chief of Training, Penn Twp. Fire
- Joel Thacker, Asst. Chief, Brownsburg Fire Territory

- Dale Saucier, Div. Chief of Training, White River Twp. Fire Dept.
- Mark Hart, Battalion Chief, White River Twp. Fire Dept.
- Mike Cornman, Fire Chief, Ellettsville Fire Dept.
- Mike Podgorski, Lieutenant, Pike Twp. Fire Dept.
- Steve Frye, Div. Chief of Operations, Carmel Fire Dept.
- Charlie Fadale, Chief of Training, Fishers Fire Dept.
- John Shafer, Captain, Greencastle Fire Dept.
- David Probo, Section Chief, Fire Academy Training System
- Brandon Wood, Manager, Fire Academy Training System

Fire Engineering Curriculum Implementation Task Force

Members met and completed evaluation of all written test questions. Next the members will begin looking at skill competencies and sheets.

Fire Engineering Curriculum Implementation Task Force Members

- David Probo – IDHS
- Jim Campbell – Career – Pike Township FD
- Scott Schnell – Volunteer – Ireland FD
- Patrick Fisher – Volunteer – Wadesville FD
- Steve Harmon – Career – South Bend FD
- Brandon Roark – Career – South Bend FD
- Chris Walker – Career – Fort Wayne FD
- Mike Larson – Career – Evansville FD
- Ray Goff – Career – Evansville FD

We are currently working out the logistics with Pennwell Publishing/Fire Engineering on the revised book (2013 Edition). On the initial printing there will be a banner across the front and on the spine with the following logos IDHS, IFTS and State Fire Marshal. Once the logistics are worked out the books will be available for purchase. These books are only available for purchase (at the state pricing) by fire agencies in the state after March 15 (estimated). Individuals can purchase books through resellers at the list price. Pricing for student manuals and instructor packets are as follows;

FIRE ENGINEERING'S HANDBOOK FOR FF1 & 2 54.00

FIRE ENGINEERING'S INSTRUCTOR GUID FOR FF 1 & 2 71.00

FIRE ENGINEERING'S HANDBOOK INSTRUCTOR POWERPOINT 282.00

FIRE ENGINEERING'S SKILL DRILLS DV FOR FF 1 & 2 111.00

FIRE ENGINEERING'S INSTRUCTOR TEST BANK FOR FF 1 & 2 111.00

PENNWELL LEARNING HIGHER L - STUDENT 10.00

For additional information please contact David Probo at dprobo@dhs.in.gov

H. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS, JUDGE BIPPUS

1. Cause 14-01, Jerry Martin
2. Cause 14-02, Bernard Beier
3. Cause 14-03, Bryan Fuller

No report at this time.

14-02 and 14-03 have conference calls scheduled for Feb 26th. 14-01 is pending a response from Jerry Martin.

I. REQUEST FOR RECIPROCITY.

No request at this time.

J. REQUEST FOR ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL

1. Robert Dickerson is requesting an administrative review of his denial of certifications.

Burke Jones made a motion to send the appeal to Judge Bippus. Rob Lund seconded. Motion passed.

K. OLD BUSINESS

1. Board members voting validity with 5 members; Mara Snyder

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education

From: Mara Snyder

Date: February 11, 2014

Subject: Quorum and voting requirements

At the last meeting, the question was raised about what vote is required for official action by the Board when the quorum consists of 5 Board members, under the provisions of IC 22-12-

3-6. I raised that question with the Deputy Attorney General, Jim Schmidt, who reviews the Board's rules and he provided the following information:

1. For approval of minutes and rules, all 5 members must vote in the affirmative for an action to be official.

2. For variances, appeals and other actions that relate to enforcement of the Board's rules, a majority of those present must vote in the affirmative for an action to be official.

3. For approval of agency initiatives, such as pilot programs, testing modules, selection of books, etc., all 5 members must vote in the affirmative for an action to be official.

I spoke with Mr. Schmidt at some length about what kinds of agency initiatives require Board approval and he advised that agency initiatives such as pilot programs, testing modules, and selection of books do not require Board approval. When the agency provides information about agency firefighter training and certification initiatives, if a Board member has a concern, the Board can require additional information to be provided or require that the initiative be delayed until the concern can be addressed.

L. NEW BUSINESS

M MEETING ADJOURNED

NEXT MEETING:

April 14, 2014 1pm
Plymouth FD
111Center St
Plymouth IN 46563
574-936-2156
John Grolich